

Amendments to the drawings:

Please amend the drawings as shown in the concurrently submitted drawing labeled "Replacement Sheet." In the drawing, FIG. 11 has been amended by changing reference letter "B" to " α ." No new matter has been amended. An Annotated sheet showing the revision to FIG. 11 is also included.

REMARKS

This paper is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed March 20, 2006. Claims 28 - 31, 33 - 53, and 55 - 72 are pending. Applicant has canceled dependent claims 32 and 54 to expedite prosecution of the application and simplify the issues. Applicant has also submitted a corrected drawing to correct a minor informality in FIG. 11. For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance.

A. Corrections to the Drawings

Applicant has submitted a corrected drawing sheet to revise a minor informality. Specifically, in FIG. 11, reference letter "B" has been changed to reference letter "α". No new matter has been entered. This correction conforms the drawing to the description in the specification and to the other drawings.

B. Cancellation of Dependent Claims 32 and 54

Dependent claims 32 and 54 have been canceled, without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims of the scope of original claim 32 and 54 in further divisional or continuation applications. These dependent claims have been canceled to simplify the issues in order to expedite prosecution of the application. It is noted that these dependent claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,795,105 to Guth ("Guth '105") or Anchor Wall WO94/08097 ("Anchor Wall '097") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,107,894 to Mullins. Applicant respectfully disagrees with these grounds of rejections, but has rendered the rejections moot by cancellation of the claims.

C. The Rejections of Claims 28 - 31, 33 - 53, and 55 - 72

Claims 28 - 31, 33 - 53, and 55 - 72 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Guth '105. These claims have also been rejected as anticipated by Anchor Wall '097. Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections and respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration.

Each of pending claims 28 - 31, 33 - 53, and 55 - 72 has an effective filing date of October 6, 1992. Each of the pending claims is fully supported by the specification of Application Serial No. 07/957,598. The pending claims have been filed in an application that is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/988,983, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/630,978, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/131,084, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/474,097, which is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial No. 08/130,298, which is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial No. 08/056,986, which is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial No. 07/957,598 (filed October 6, 1992).

The currently pending claims are entitled to the priority date of Application Serial No. 07/957,598 under 35 U.S.C. § 120 because: (i) the claims are fully supported by the specification of Application Serial No. 07/957,598; (ii) there has been co-pendency; and (iii) there has been at least one common inventor. With respect to the issue of common inventor, the Examiner's attention is directed to the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith. Submitted in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, the Examiner will note that the inventive entity in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,795,105 and 6,113,318 have been corrected such that Michael E. Woolford has been added. Thus, at least because: (i) the inventive entity of U.S. Patent No. 5,795,105 and 6,113,318 was corrected to add Mr. Woolford; and (ii) there has been

co-pendency; and (iii) the currently pending claims are fully supported by the specification in Application Serial No. 07/957,598, the pending claims are entitled to an effective filing date of October 6, 1992 (the filing date of Application Serial No. 07/957,598).

Because the pending claims are entitled to an effective filing date of October 6, 1992, these claims cannot be anticipated by Guth '105 or Anchor Wall '097. Guth '105 is within this currently pending application's chain of priority and is not available as a reference under any section of 35 U.S.C. § 102 against the pending claims. Anchor Wall '097 is a PCT publication corresponding to Application Serial No. 08/130,298, which is also in this currently pending application's chain of priority. The Anchor Wall '097 publication date is not a date that qualifies it as prior art against the currently pending claims, which have an effective filing date of October 6, 1992.

D. Summary

In summary, claims 28 - 31, 33 - 53, and 55 - 72 are pending. Applicant has explained that these claims are entitled to an effective filing date of October 6, 1992, the filing date of Application Serial No. 07/957,598. This means that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) cannot be sustained. Applicant has canceled the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, rendering the rejections moot. Applicant respectfully submits that there are no issues preventing allowance. Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 336-4724

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Julie R. Daulton
Reg. No. 36,414
JRD:st

